

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 181715Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0834

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS ROME 9823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, CI

SUBJECT: ITALIAN REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE

1. /BEGIN SUMMARY/: CHILEAN EVENTS HAVE BROUGHT OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY - RARE IN SUCH CASES - REGRETTING OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND HOPING FOR ITS EARLY RESTORATION. PRESS AND POLITICAL REACTION FOLLOWED EXPECTED PATTERNS, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT WITH MANY OBSERVERS ATTEMPTING TO DRAW LOCAL LESSONS FROM RISE AND FALL OF ALLENDE. /END SUMMARY/.

2. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED TWO PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN CHILE. (SUCH PUBLIC COMMENTARY BY GOI IS UNUSUAL-- GOVERNMENT NORMALLY REFRAINS FROM MAKING DIRECT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EVENTS SUCH AS CHILEAN COUP). ON SEPTEMBER 12, GOI EXPRESSED "DEEP REGRET" RE OVERTHROW OF "CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CHILE" AND EMPHASIZED ITS PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE. STATEMENT FIRMLY CONDEMNED "VIOLENCE IN POLITICAL LIFE" AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR IMMEDIATE REESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN CHILE. IN FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 16, GOI NOTED IT CONTINUED TO FOLLOW EVENTS IN CHILE WITH "CONCERNED UNCLASSIFIED
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ATTENTION" ALONG WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. ACKNOWLEDGING LACK OF PRECISE INFORMATION, STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT "VARIOUS

SOURCES" WERE CONVEYING "GRAVE NEWS OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION" WHICH TOGETHER WITH RUPTURE OF "CONSTITUTIONAL NORMALCY" COULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE CONDITIONS IN CHILE. STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT FOR POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS, GOI WISHES FOR RAPID REESTABLISHMENT OF A "REGIME OF LIBERTY", AND CALLED FOR RESPECT FOR LIFE AND INTEGRITY OF PERSONS.

3. CHILEAN COUP PROMPTED EXPECTED ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION FROM COMMUNIST PRESS WHICH ALSO STRONGLY CONDEMNED GIUNTA'S TAKEOVER AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' ROLE BOTH IN EVENTS LEADING UP TO ALLENDE'S OUSTER AND IN SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION ACCEPTING MILITARY REGIME AS WAY STATION TO RESUMPTION OF DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES. PRIOR TO STATEMENTS BY HIS WIDOW, COMMUNIST AND OTHER LEFT-WING PRESS ALSO TOOK FOR GRANTED THAT "MARTYRED" ALLENDE WAS MURDERED, NOT A SUICIDE. SOCIALISTS, DESPITE SOCIALIST-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT ALLIANCE IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, SECONDED COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF CHILEAN DC BUT STAYED AWAY FROM ANY DISCUSSION OF FAILINGS OF ALLENDE AND CHILEAN SOCIALIST PARTY. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, BOTH IN STATEMENTS BY PARTY LEADERSHIP AND IN DC - CONTROLLED PRESS, HAVE DEPLORED BOTH MILITARY TAKEOVER AND ALLENDE'S DEATH, BUT (WITH EXCEPTION OF SPOKESMEN FOR DC LEFT) HAVE POINTED UP SHORTCOMINGS OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE SUPPORTED POSITION ON GIUNTA TAKEN BY CHILEAN DC LEADERSHIP. INDEPENDENT PRESS, WHILE EXPRESSING SORROW FOR ALLENDE'S DEATH AND FOR CURRENT - HOPEFULLY ONLY TEMPORARY - INTERRUPTION IN CHILE'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS, HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THE ANOMALIES AND WEAKNESSES WHICH PRECIPITATED LAST WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS. CONSERVATIVE DAILIES HAVE STRESSED DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS, CITING CHILEAN EVENTS AS INEVITABLE RESULT OF ADMITTING COMMUNISTS INTO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. CONSERVATIVE PRESS ALSO PRAISES RECENT, TOUGH ANTI-ALLENDE STAND OF CHILEAN DC AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT LOCAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL RETAIN CURRENT BARRIERS AGAINST PCI.

4. POPULAR REACTION HAS ALSO FOLLOWED ANTICIPATED LINES WITH MASS DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED BY COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY-LEFT IN MOST MAJOR CITIES. ROME HAS HAD TWO SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS, WITH LARGEST, ON SEPTEMBER 13,
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COMPRISING 5-6 THOUSAND MARCHERS, MANY CHANTING ANTI-US (CIA, ITT) SLOGANS. SMALLER EDITION ON SEPTEMBER 15 FEATURED DEMONSTRATORS PASSING IN REVIEW BY CHILEAN EMBASSY WITH AMBASSADOR VASSALLO-ROJAS GREETING MARCHERS FROM EMBASSY BALCONY WITH CLOSED-FIST SALUTE. IN SEPTEMBER 17 CALL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, VASSALLO-ROJAS EXTRACTED FROM UNDERSECRETARY BENSI, A SOCIALIST, PROMISES THAT ITALY WOULD PURSUE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW "SOLIDARITY" WITH THE SORELTY-TRIED CHILEAN PEOPLE. REPORTS CURRENTLY CIRCULATING SUGGEST THAT ITALY WILL SOON BE VISITED BY GROUP OF PRO-ALLENDE AMBASSADORS AND

PARLIAMENTARIANS. AMONG AMBASSADORS NAMED ARE CHILEAN CHIEFS
OF MISSION IN AUSTRIA, RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. CHILEAN EVENTS
WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON SEPTEMBER 26.VOLPE

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